

FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY NYC HUNGER EXPERIENCE REPORT SERIES

# NYC HUNGER EXPERIENCE 2010: **LESS FOOD ON THE TABLE**



Division of Research, Policy & Education

## ABOUT THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY

Food Bank For New York City recognizes 27 years as the city's major hunger-relief organization working to end food poverty throughout the five boroughs. As the city's hub for integrated food poverty assistance, the Food Bank tackles the hunger issue on three fronts — food distribution, income support and nutrition education — all strategically guided by its research.

Through its network of approximately 1,000 community-based member programs citywide, the Food Bank helps provide 400,000 free meals a day for New Yorkers in need. The Food Bank's hands-on nutrition education program in the public schools reaches thousands of children, teens and adults. Income support services including food stamps, free tax assistance for the working poor and the Earned Income Tax Credit put millions of dollars back in the pockets of low-income New Yorkers, helping them to achieve greater dignity and independence. Learn how you can help at [foodbanknyc.org](http://foodbanknyc.org).

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## OVERVIEW

Food poverty and unemployment trends over the past year raise questions about what it means for low-income New Yorkers to experience a jobless recovery and the lengths to which families must go to keep food on the table.

To provide insight into these questions, the Food Bank For New York City's 2010 edition of the *NYC Hunger Experience* report series — an annual opinion poll conducted in collaboration with Marist College Institute for Public Opinion — adds new results about the financial coping mechanisms New Yorkers have used to get by during the recession and their predictions for the future to the yearly findings on difficulty affording food, impact of loss of income and concern about needing food assistance.

When the recession started in 2008,<sup>1</sup> the percentage of New Yorkers having difficulty affording food spiked to almost one-half (48 percent), the highest level since the start of the poll in 2003. Once stimulus funding and resources began to flow to those in need, the percentage experiencing difficulty dropped to 40 percent in 2009. This year, 37 percent of New York City residents experienced difficulty affording food, similar to 2007 (38 percent), just before the recession started.<sup>2</sup>

On the surface, these results seem optimistic. However, the poll findings indicate that New Yorkers have only been able to maintain their ability to afford food by making sacrifices, including reducing food intake, choosing between food and other necessities and relying on savings. The situation is even worse for the most vulnerable New Yorkers, as residents with the lowest incomes are experiencing a rise in difficulty affording food and record numbers are depleting their savings to put food on the table.

Even though by economists' definitions the recession is over,<sup>3</sup> New Yorkers are still feeling its effects and must now face a jobless recovery that is expected to last for years. With many residents already making sacrifices to afford food and even more treading a thin line before they may be forced to do the same, a long recovery could set the stage for the number of New Yorkers experiencing food poverty to swell.

### 2010, A YEAR OF RECOVERY?

Over the course of the recession, unemployment and the need for food assistance climbed, indicating that residents were struggling to afford necessities. More than a year later, the unemployment rate has not budged, participation in government food assistance is at record levels and economists predict a slow recovery.

The unemployment rate in New York City and the U.S. doubled since the start of the recession and has remained high throughout the past year. As of November 2010, the unemployment rate in New York City was 9 percent (approximately 364,000 people). As illustrated by Figure I, this rate is almost double (an increase of 94 percent) that of 5 percent unemployment (approximately 184,000 people) at the start of the recession in December 2007 and similar to 10.5 percent unemployment (approximately 416,000 people) one year ago in November 2009. In the United States, the unemployment rate in November 2010 was 10 percent (15 million people), almost double (an increase of 96 percent) that of 5 percent unemployment (8 million

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<sup>1</sup> The recession officially started in December 2007.

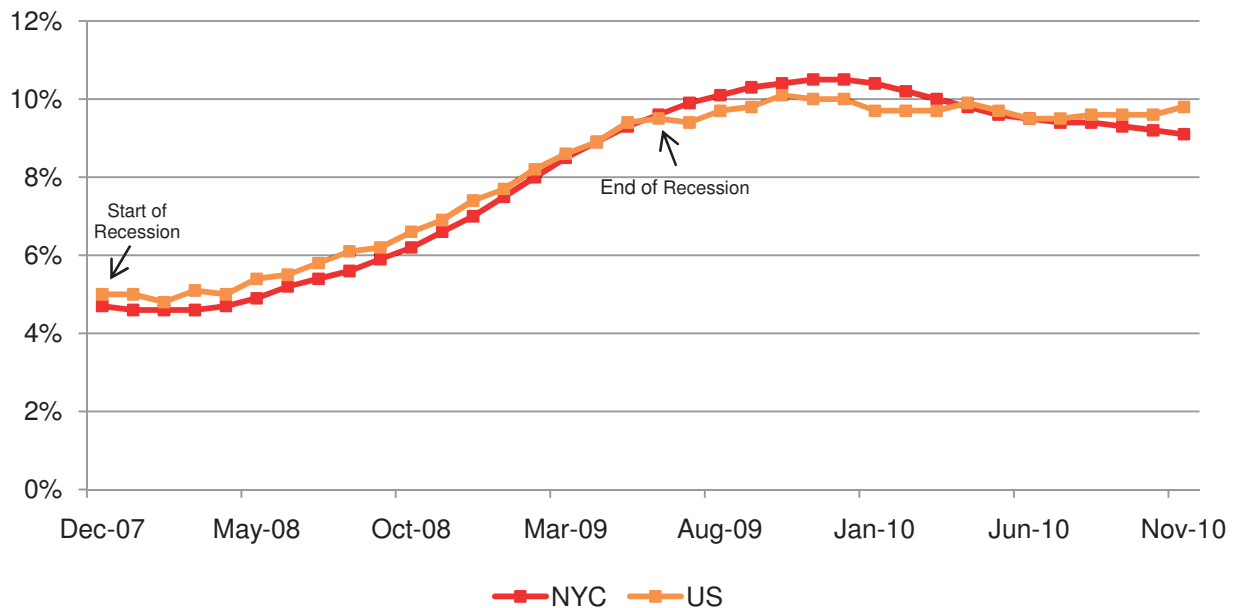
<sup>2</sup> *NYC Hunger Experience 2009: A Year in Recession*. (2009) Food Bank For New York City.

<sup>3</sup> The recession officially ended in June 2009.



people) at the start of the recession in December 2007 and consistent with 10 percent unemployment (15 million people) one year ago in November 2009.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure I**  
**Unemployment Rate in New York City since the Beginning of the Recession<sup>5</sup>**



While high, these figures only include one subpopulation of workers affected by the job slump. A more comprehensive measure of unemployment shows that as of November 2010, 17 percent of the U.S. workforce, or approximately 26 million people, did not have adequate employment, including 15 million unemployed workers as previously mentioned, 9 million underemployed workers who have part-time positions but want full-time employment and 2.5 million marginally attached workers who are willing and able to work full-time, but did not search for a job in the previous four weeks because of bleak prospects.<sup>6</sup>

Participation in food assistance programs also provides evidence that New Yorkers are not yet feeling the effects of the recovery. During the recession more residents turned to emergency food programs (soup kitchens and food pantries) and the food stamp program (also known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP) to help put food on the table. As of 2009, 92 percent of emergency food programs reported an increase in the number of residents accessing their programs in the past year, more than one-half (53 percent) of which reported an increase of 25 percent or more in participation. Likewise, 93 percent of emergency food programs experienced an increase in the number of individuals accessing emergency food for the first time.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, food stamp enrollment has reached unprecedented levels in the past year. As of October 2010, there were 1.8 million New York City residents receiving food stamps, up 59 percent from approximately 1.1 million at the start of the recession in December 2007 and up 11 percent from 1.6 million one year ago in October 2009.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (Local figures for underemployed and marginally attached workers were not available.)

<sup>7</sup> *NYC Hunger Experience 2009: A Year in Recession*. (2009). Food Bank For New York City.

<sup>8</sup> Analysis of SNAP data as reported by the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA). In the U.S., there were 43 million participants in the SNAP program in September 2010, up 15 percent from 37 million one year ago and up 56 percent from 28 million at the start of the recession as provided by States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

Progress toward recovery is tentative at best as the pace of job growth is not rigorous enough to meet the backlog of unemployed workers, let alone the underemployed and marginally attached residents struggling to make ends meet. In November 2010, only 39,000 new jobs were added to the economy, down 77 percent from 172,000 one month before in October 2010.<sup>9</sup> Due to state and local budget deficits, it is possible that job growth will stagnate, or even worsen in the months ahead as government positions are cut to reduce expenses.<sup>10</sup> At the current rate of job growth, it would take years to reach pre-recession levels of employment. For example, if the economy were to consistently add 321,000 jobs per month (far more than the current rate) it would take five years to close the job gap.<sup>11</sup> In the meantime, New Yorkers are continuing to turn to food assistance programs and make extreme sacrifices to put food on the table.

## NEW YORKERS SACRIFICING FOOD AND SAVINGS

Throughout 2010, 37 percent of New York City residents, or 3 million people experienced difficulty affording food, down slightly from 40 percent in 2009. While these results seem hopeful, New Yorkers are maintaining their ability to afford food by reducing food intake, choosing between food and other necessities and relying on savings.

In suffering through the impact of the recession, approximately one out of three New York City residents reduced their food intake (30 percent) and the quality of their food (29 percent), as provided in Table I. Having to make choices between basic necessities were also common coping mechanisms, as approximately one out of every four residents were forced to choose between paying for food and transportation (25 percent) and between paying for food and rent or mortgage (23 percent).

Certainly, these sacrifices are likely to become more difficult and prevalent, as the cost of living continues to rise. Since the start of the poll in 2003, food prices increased by 25 percent, housing prices increased by 24 percent, transportation prices increased by 21 percent and medical care prices increased by 23 percent.<sup>12</sup>

**Table I**

### Financial Coping Mechanisms during the Recession – New York City Residents<sup>13</sup>

NYC Residents	2010
Reduced Food Intake	30%
Reduced Quality of Food	29%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	25%
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	23%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	23%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	22%
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	22%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	13%
Rented out a Space in Home	10%

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In November 2010, the private sector added 50,000 jobs to the economy while the government shed 11,000 jobs. The net total number of jobs created is therefore 39,000, the difference between private sector job gains and government job losses.

<sup>10</sup> (1) U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2) *Labor market falters in November* (December 2010). Economic Policy Institute.

<sup>11</sup> *The Great Recession's Toll on Long-Term Unemployment*. (November 2010). Brookings Institute.

<sup>12</sup> (1) *Consumer Price Index*. (2010). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Figures are calculated for the New York City Metropolitan Statistical Area. 2010 Consumer Price Index is calculated using mid-year averages.

<sup>13</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.

Despite resorting to extreme measures such as reducing their food intake and choosing between food and basic necessities, findings indicate that an increasing percent of New Yorkers are also depleting their savings to get by and run the risk of their resources running out entirely. Approximately 4 million residents (45 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their household income in 2010, a 15 percent increase from 2009 (39 percent).

Looking even deeper into the results, it becomes clear that the city's most vulnerable residents, low-income households and families with children, are suffering the heaviest burden, likely with harsh consequences.

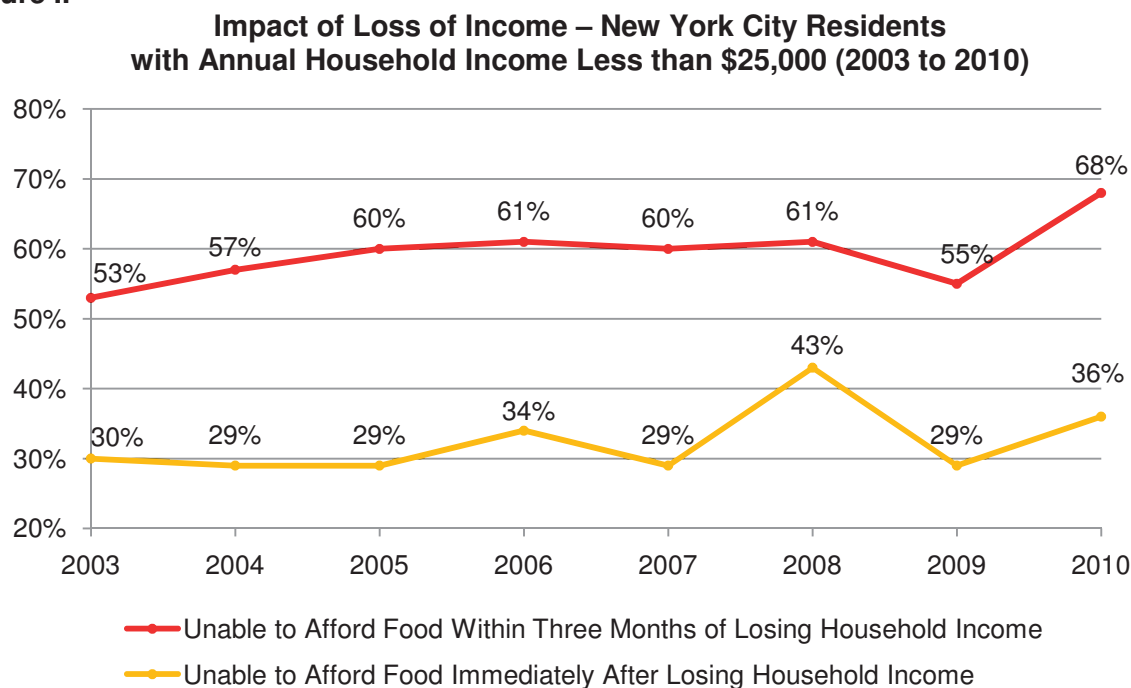
**Low-Income Households:** Among low-income households, a troubling new trend has emerged showing that an increasing percentage of New Yorkers with the lowest incomes are having difficulty affording food and are living paycheck-to-paycheck. These trends are creating the groundwork for many residents to find themselves without the resources to purchase food for themselves and their families in the event of hardships such as job loss, illness or rising prices within the next year. Throughout 2010, almost two out of three (62 percent) residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 experienced difficulty affording food, representing a 3 percent increase from 2009 (60 percent). While the current percentage is below crisis levels at the height of the recession in 2008 (73 percent), it is up 9 percent since 2007 (57 percent) before the recession started and up 27 percent since 2003 (49 percent). Residents with annual household incomes of \$25,000 and less were the only income category to experience an increase in difficulty affording food within the past year and since 2007 — all other income groups either returned to or dropped below pre-recession levels.

Low-income New Yorkers are also more likely to have to make difficult choices in order to put food on the table. More than two out of five (44 percent) residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 reduced their food intake during the recession to get by financially, compared to 32 percent of residents with household incomes of \$25,000 to \$49,000, 29 percent of residents with household incomes of \$50,000 to \$74,999 and 14 percent of residents with household incomes of \$75,000 or more. Similarly, almost one-half (45 percent) of residents with household incomes of less than \$25,000 reduced the quality of food during the past two years to get by financially, compared to 34 percent of residents with household incomes of \$25,000 to \$49,000, 28 percent of residents with household incomes of \$50,000 to \$74,999 and 13 percent of residents with household incomes of \$75,000 or more.

Even while cutting back, the percentage of low-income New Yorkers depleting their savings is at an all-time high. A record 68 percent, or more than two out of three, residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 would not be able to afford food for themselves and their families within three months of losing their household income, up 24 percent from 2009 (55 percent) and up 11 percent from the height of the recession in 2008 (61 percent), as illustrated in Figure II. Similarly, more than one out of three (36 percent) residents with household incomes of less than \$25,000 would not be able to afford needed food immediately after losing their household income, up 24 percent from 2009 (29 percent) and approaching the record high of 43 percent in 2008.



Figure II



**Low-Income Households with Children:** Findings show that the situation for low-income households with children is even more dire, a particularly troubling trend as economic instability and hunger have severe, long-term consequences for children. Throughout 2010, more than three out of four (76 percent) households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 experienced difficulty affording food. This figure represents an increase of 6 percent from 2009 (72 percent), exceeds 2007 pre-recession levels (68 percent) and is only slightly lower than at the height of the recession in 2008 (77 percent). This means a startling number of low-income households with children only temporarily felt relief from the recession and are now experiencing the same level of financial difficulty they had at the height of the recession crisis.

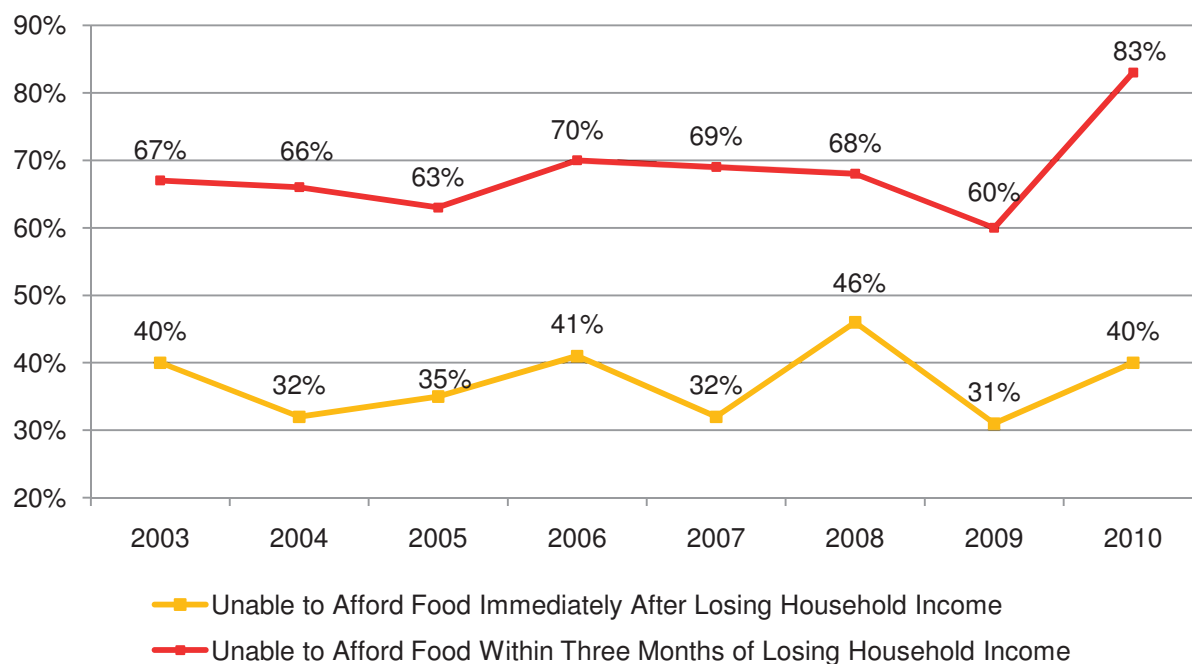
To make matters worse, an overwhelming majority (83 percent) of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 would not be able to afford needed food for themselves and their families within three months of losing their household income, as illustrated in Figure III. This represents a 38 percent increase from 2009 (60 percent) and the highest percentage on record since the start of the poll. Similarly, two out of five (40 percent) households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 would not be able to afford needed food for themselves and their families immediately after losing their household income. Although below the 2008 recession level (46 percent), the 2010 figure represents a 29 percent increase from 2009 (31 percent) and a 25 percent increase from the pre-recession level in 2007 (32 percent).





**Figure III**

**Impact of Loss of Income – New York City Households with Children  
with Annual Incomes Less than \$25,000 (2003 to 2010)**



Food consumption patterns further underscore the severity of food poverty among low-income households with children. More than one-half (52 percent) of households with children with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 reduced their food intake and 51 percent reduced the quality of food during the recession to get by financially.

There are numerous social and economic factors that underlie food poverty for low-income New York City residents. Most notably, low-income residents are disproportionately affected by job loss, long-term unemployment and wage instability, making it even more difficult for the population to recover from recessionary periods. A recent poll conducted by the Community Service Society demonstrates that 23 percent of New York City residents living below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$36,600 annually for a family of three) reported losing a job in the past year, compared to 14 percent of residents living between 200 and 400 percent of the federal poverty level and 12 percent of residents living above 400 percent of the federal poverty level.<sup>14</sup>

Like trends in unemployment, low-income residents are more susceptible to wage instability than individuals in higher income brackets. In the past year, more than one out of four (27 percent) New York City residents living below 200 percent of the federal poverty level had their hours, wages or tips reduced, compared to 21 percent of residents living between 200 and 400 percent of the federal poverty level and 12 percent of residents living above 400 percent of the federal poverty level.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>14</sup> *The Unheard Third 2010. No Recovery in Sight: The Jobs Crisis for Low-Income New Yorkers.* (2010). Community Service Society.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

Not only are low-income New York City residents more likely to experience unemployment and job instability, but the length of time they spend jobless is longer. Among unemployed New Yorkers living at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, 65 percent of residents have been out of work for more than a year, with 31 percent jobless for 3 years or more. In comparison, 45 percent of unemployed residents living above 200 percent of the federal poverty level have been out of work for more than a year, with only 7 percent jobless for 3 years or more.<sup>16</sup> Long-term unemployment has persistent negative effects on workers' careers and wages. First, extended spells of unemployment may result in human capital depreciation, job network depletion and demoralization among job-seekers, limiting reemployment prospects.<sup>17</sup> Second, it is theorized that individuals who have been unemployed for long periods of time are stigmatized because their record, in the eyes of prospective employers, may signal inferior work quality. Consequently, the longer a worker is unemployed, the less likely he or she is to find a new job.<sup>18</sup> Finally, even at the point of reemployment, individuals who are disrupted by a spell of unemployment are more likely to suffer from a drop in earnings, which is proportional to the length of time spent out of the labor market.<sup>19</sup>

These experiences have cumulative effects on career trajectories and economic mobility, particularly during economic recessions. Due to the scarcity of jobs in the labor market, many long-term unemployed job-seekers are forced to accept reemployment in new occupations and as such, may experience permanent devaluation in position and wages.<sup>20</sup> In addition, previously unemployed workers are more likely to become unemployed again for longer periods of time.<sup>21</sup> These findings demonstrate that low-income New York City residents, who are disproportionately represented among the long-term unemployed population, may have an even more difficult time recovering from an economic downturn than residents from other income groups.

Children are particularly adversely affected by periods of economic instability. Academically, children living in food-insecure households are more likely to have lower achievement in math and reading, are more likely to repeat a grade, have behavioral problems and higher rates of tardiness and absenteeism.<sup>22</sup> Because of these early setbacks, low-income children begin to lag behind their peers, increasing the probability they will drop out of school. Given that lower educational attainment reduces earnings, it is not surprising that average incomes are substantially lower for children born and raised in poverty relative to residents somewhat higher on the income ladder. Thus economic outcomes and upward mobility are tied to the experiences of their parents.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> *The Great Recession's Toll on Long-Term Unemployment*. (November 2010). Brookings Institute.

<sup>18</sup> Gangl, Markus. (2006). *Scar Effects of Unemployment: An Assessment of Institutional Complementarities*. American Sociological Association. Vol 71 (6): 986-1013.

<sup>19</sup> Mroz, Thomas A., Savage, Timothy H. (2001). *The Long-Term Effects of Youth Unemployment*. Employment Policies Institute.

<sup>20</sup> Gangl, Markus. (2006). *Scar Effects of Unemployment: An Assessment of Institutional Complementarities*. American Sociological Association. Vol 71 (6): 986-1013.

<sup>21</sup> Mroz, Thomas A., Savage, Timothy H. (2001). *The Long-Term Effects of Youth Unemployment*. Employment Policies Institute

<sup>22</sup> Cook, John, Frank, Deborah, Department of Pediatrics, Boston, University School of Medicine. *Food Security, Poverty and Human Development in the United States*. (2008). New York Academy of Sciences.

<sup>23</sup> *Penny Wise, Pound Foolish: Why Tackling Child Poverty During the Great Recession Makes Economic Sense*. (2010). Center for American Progress.

## BLEAK OUTLOOK FOR 2011

Relying on savings and using strategies such as reducing food intake are temporary measures and are not likely to shield residents in the long-term. Vulnerable New Yorkers whose resources are already being overstretched and depleted do not foresee relief within the next year and are concerned about having to turn to food assistance, many for the first time.

- Among New York City residents experiencing difficulty affording food, 57 percent predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now<sup>24</sup> and 58 percent are concerned they will need food assistance from an emergency food program (soup kitchen or food pantry) or food stamps (SNAP).<sup>25</sup>
- Among New York City residents with annual household incomes of \$25,000 or less, 57 percent predict their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now and more than one-half (54 percent) are concerned they will need to turn to food assistance. Among those concerned, almost one-third (31 percent) have never received assistance in the past.
- Among households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 per year, 55 percent predict their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now and almost two out of three (62 percent) are concerned that they will need to turn to food assistance in the next 12 months. Among those concerned, 26 percent have never received assistance in the past.

These findings are reminders that even though the recession has ended, hardship for our most vulnerable residents continues to rise and presents an insecure and bleak outlook for 2011. Reversing this trend and creating long-term solutions requires addressing the underlying causes of food poverty including lack of access to affordable and nutritious food, high housing, transportation and healthcare costs, and the lack of a living wage. In the near-term, increasing support for soup kitchens and food pantries to provide emergency food is an essential stop-gap to ensure that individuals and families receive the assistance they need.

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<sup>24</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.

<sup>25</sup> This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### HUNGER EXPERIENCE POLL

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#### NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS

- Throughout 2010, 37 percent of New York City residents, or 3 million people experienced **difficulty affording needed food** for themselves and their families, down slightly from 40 percent in 2009.

The percentage having difficulty increased 48 percent since 2003 (25 percent) and is similar to the pre-recession level in 2007 (38 percent). The percentage has dropped since the height of the recession in 2008 (48 percent).

- More New Yorkers are depleting their savings and would **not be able to afford food after losing their household income**.
  - ♦ Almost one out of every five (19 percent) New York City residents, or 2 million people, would **not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income**, a 6 percent increase from 2009 (18 percent) and a 12 percent increase from 2003 (17 percent). The percentage has dropped since the height of the recession in 2008 (23 percent).
  - ♦ Almost one-half (45 percent) of residents, or 4 million people, would **not be able to afford food within three months of losing their household income**, a 15 percent increase from 2009 (39 percent) and a 13 percent increase from 2003 (40 percent). This percentage is consistent with levels at the height of the recession in 2008 (45 percent).
- New Yorkers are making sacrifices such as **reducing food intake and quality of food**.
  - ♦ Approximately one out of three (30 percent) New York City residents **reduced their food intake** during the recession to get by financially.
  - ♦ More than one-quarter (29 percent) of residents **reduced the quality of their food** during the recession to get by financially.
- Approximately one-third (32 percent) of New York City residents, or 3 million people, are **concerned about needing food assistance** including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, a 3 percent increase from 2009 (31 percent) and a 24 percent decrease since the height of the recession in 2008 (42 percent), the earliest data available.

Among New York City residents concerned about needing food assistance in the next 12 months, 50 percent have never received food assistance in the past.
- Among New Yorkers experiencing difficulty affording food, more than one-half (57 percent) **predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse** one year from now.

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- Low-income New York City residents are the only income category that experienced a percentage increase in **difficulty affording needed food** for themselves and their families since 2007 and 2009.

More than three out of five (62 percent) New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 experienced difficulty affording food for themselves and their families, up 3 percent from 2009 (60 percent), up 9 percent from 2007 (57 percent) and up 27 percent since 2003 (49 percent). The percentage has dropped since the height of the recession in 2008 (73 percent).

- There has been a sharp rise in low-income households **not able to afford food after losing their household income**.
  - ♦ More than one-third (36 percent) of New York City households with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 **would not be able to afford food immediately** after losing their household income, up 24 percent from 2009 (29 percent) and up 20 percent from 2003 (30 percent). The percentage has dropped since the height of the recession in 2008 (43 percent).
  - ♦ There are a record number of low-income New York City residents who **would not be able to afford food within three months** of losing their household income.

Among New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000, more than two-thirds (68 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their household income, representing an increase of 24 percent since 2009 (55 percent) and an increase of 28 percent from 2003 (53 percent). This percentage is higher than record levels experienced at the height of the recession in 2008 (61 percent).

- Low-income New Yorkers are making sacrifices such as **reducing food intake and quality of food**.
  - ♦ More than two out of five (44 percent) residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 annually **reduced their food intake** during the recession to get by financially.
  - ♦ Approximately one-half (45 percent) of residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 **reduced the quality of their food** during the recession to get by financially.
- More than one-half (54 percent) of residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 are **concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months** including food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries), a 4 percent increase from 2009 (52 percent) and a 25 percent decrease from the height of the recession in 2008 (72 percent), the earliest data available.
- More than one-half (57 percent) of residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 **predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse** one year from now.

## HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

- Throughout 2010, more than three out of four (76 percent) households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 **experienced difficulty affording needed food** for themselves and their families, up 6 percent from 72 percent in 2009 and up 31 percent from 2003 (58 percent). This figure exceeds 2007 pre-recession levels (68 percent) and is only slightly lower than the height of the recession in 2008 (77 percent).
- There has been a sharp rise in low-income households with children **not able to afford food after losing their household income**.
  - ♦ Two out of five (40 percent) households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 would **not be able to afford needed food immediately** after losing their household income, up 29 percent from 2009 (31 percent) and consistent with 2003 (40 percent). The percentage is down since the height of the recession in 2008 (46 percent).
  - ♦ There are a record number of low-income households with children who would **not be able to afford food within three months** of losing their household income.

Throughout 2010, 83 percent of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 would not be able to buy needed food for themselves and their families within three months of losing their household income. This represents a 38 percent increase from 2009 (60 percent) and a 24 percent increase from 2003 (67 percent). This percentage is higher than levels experienced at the height of the recession in 2008 (68 percent).

- Low-income households with children are making sacrifices such as **reducing food intake and quality of food**.
  - ♦ More than one-half (52 percent) of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 **reduced their food intake** during the recession to get by financially.
  - ♦ More than one-half (51 percent) of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 **reduced the quality of their food** during the recession to get by financially.
- More than three out of five (62 percent) households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 are **concerned about needing food assistance** including food stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, a 3 percent decrease from 2009 (64 percent) and a 21 percent decrease from 2008 (78 percent), the earliest data available.
- More than one-half (55 percent) of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 **predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse** one year from now.



## EMPLOYMENT

- There are a higher percentage of unemployed residents, compared to employed, who are **experiencing difficulty affording needed food** for themselves and their families.

More than one-half (54 percent) of unemployed New York City residents experienced difficulty affording needed food, down from 58 percent in 2009, while one-third (33 percent) of employed residents experienced difficulty, down from 37 percent in 2009.

- There are a higher percentage of unemployed residents, compared to employed residents, who are depleting their savings and would **not be able to afford food after losing their household income**.
  - ♦ More than one out of six (18 percent) unemployed New York City residents would **not be able to afford food immediately** after losing their household income compared to 17 percent of employed residents.
  - ♦ More than one-half (55 percent) of unemployed New York City residents would **not be able to afford food within three months** of losing their household income compared to 44 percent of employed residents.
- Unemployed residents are making sacrifices such as **reducing food intake and quality of food**.
  - ♦ Approximately one-half (49 percent) of unemployed residents **reduced their food intake** during the recession to get by financially, compared to 28 percent of employed residents.
  - ♦ Approximately two out of five (41 percent) unemployed residents **reduced the quality of their food** during the recession to get by financially, compared to 28 percent of employed residents.
- Twice the percentage of unemployed residents than employed are **concerned about needing food assistance** within the next 12 months.
  - ♦ One-half (50 percent) of unemployed New York City residents are concerned about needing food assistance such as food stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months. This percentage represents a 4 percent decrease from 2009 (52 percent), the earliest data available.
  - ♦ One out of four (25 percent) employed residents are concerned about needing food assistance such as food stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months. This percentage represents a 7 percent decrease from 2009 (27 percent).
- More than two out of five (45 percent) unemployed residents **predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse** one year from now, compared to 58 percent of employed residents.



## FINDINGS

### HUNGER EXPERIENCE POLL

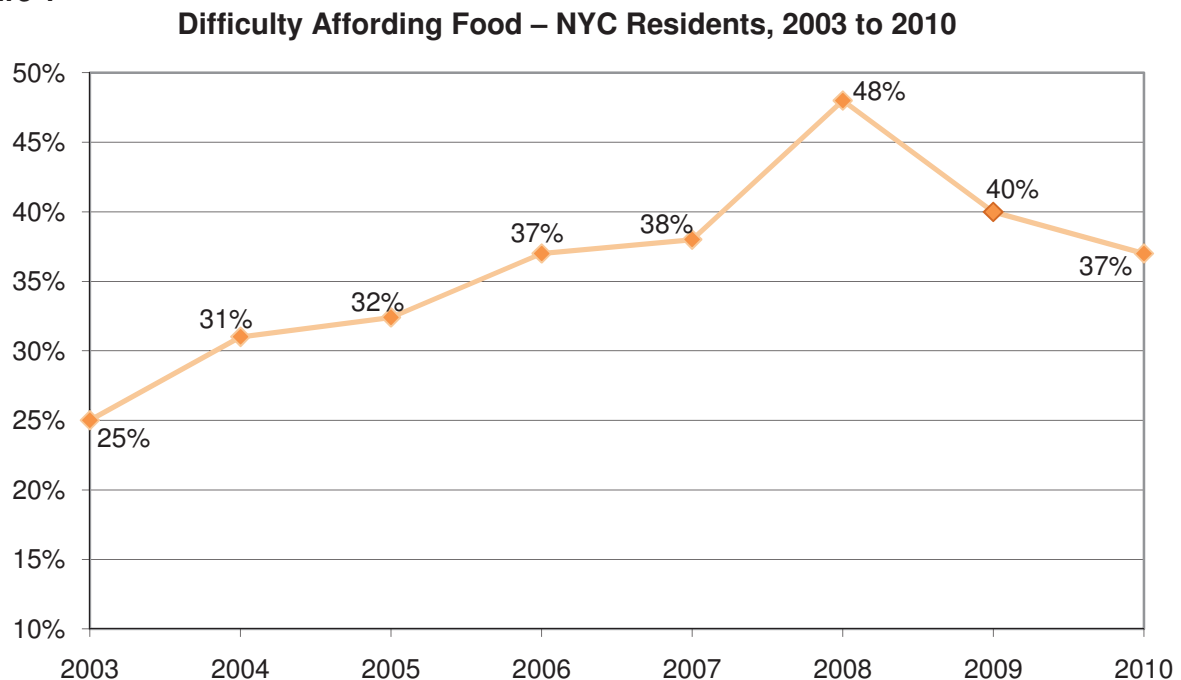
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Food Bank For New York City contracts with Marist College Institute for Public Opinion to conduct telephone interviews with a random and representative sample of city residents. Socio-demographic findings identify which populations in the five boroughs are having the greatest difficulty affording food throughout the year. This research includes eight years of trend analysis from 2003 (the earliest year the poll was conducted) through 2010.

#### NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS

In New York City, 37 percent of residents, more than 3 million people, experienced difficulty affording needed food throughout 2010. This percentage decreased for residents from 2009 (40 percent). Overall, there has been a 48 percent increase since 2003 (25 percent), as illustrated in Figure 1.

**Figure 1**





As provided in Table 1, almost one out of every five (19 percent) New York City residents would not have been able to afford food immediately after losing their household income in 2010, a 6 percent increase from 2009 (18 percent) and a 12 percent increase from 2003 (17 percent). Additionally, 45 percent of residents would not have been able to afford food within three months of losing their household income. This percentage represents a 15 percent increase from 2009 (39 percent) and a 13 percent increase from 2003 (40 percent).

**Table 1**

**Impact of Loss of Income –  
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food, 2003 to 2010**

<b>NYC Residents</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Immediately	17%	17%	21%	21%	20%	23%	18%	19%
0-3 months	40%	39%	44%	45%	45%	45%	39%	45%

Approximately one-third (32 percent) of New York City residents are concerned about needing food assistance such as food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, as provided in Table 2. This percentage of concerned residents represents a 3 percent increase from 2009 (31 percent) and a 24 percent decrease from 2008 (42 percent), the earliest data available. Among New York City residents concerned about needing food assistance in the next 12 months, 50 percent have never received food assistance in the past. This percentage represents a 7 percent decrease from 2009 (54 percent) and a 17 percent decrease from 2008 (60 percent).

**Table 2**

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance – NYC Residents, 2008 to 2010<sup>26</sup>**

<b>NYC Residents</b>	2008	2009	2010
Concerned about Needing Food Assistance in Next 12 Months	42%	31%	32%
Among <i>Concerned</i> , Never Received Food Assistance in the Past	60%	54%	50%

As shown in Table 3, approximately one out of three (30 percent) New York City residents reduced their food intake during the recession to get by financially, similar to 29 percent of residents who reduced the quality of their food.

**Table 3**

**Financial Coping Mechanisms During the Recession – NYC Residents<sup>27</sup>**

<b>NYC Residents</b>	2010
Reduced Food Intake	30%
Reduced Quality of Food	29%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	25%
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	23%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	23%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	22%
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	22%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	13%
Rented out a Space in Home	10%

<sup>26</sup> This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

<sup>27</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.

Three out of five (60 percent) New York City residents predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now, as provided in Table 4. Among New York City residents experiencing difficulty affording food, more than one-half (57 percent) predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now.

**Table 4**

**Predictions about Financial Situation – NYC Residents, 2010<sup>28</sup>**

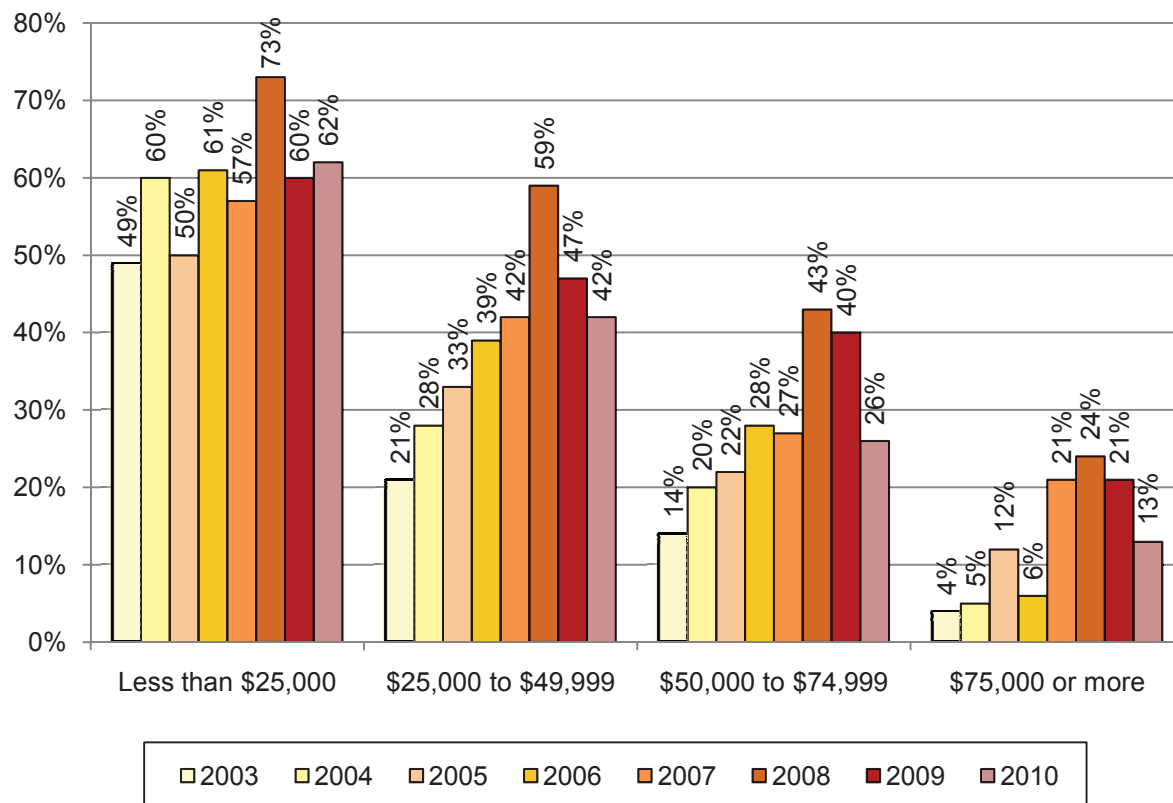
NYC Residents	2010
Financial Situation Will Be Same or Worse One Year From Now	60%
Among New York City Residents Experiencing Difficulty Affording Food	57%

**ANALYSIS BY ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

More low-income New York City residents have difficulty affording food than any other income category. As illustrated in Figure 2, more than three out of five (62 percent) New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 experienced difficulty affording food throughout 2010, up 3 percent from 2009 (60 percent) and 27 percent from 2003 (49 percent). Residents with household incomes of less than \$25,000 were the only income group with increased difficulty affording food from 2009 to 2010.

**Figure 2**

**Difficulty Affording Food – By Annual Household Income, 2003 to 2010**



<sup>28</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

More than one-third (36 percent) of New York City residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income, as shown in Table 5. In addition, 68 percent of residents with household incomes of less than \$25,000 would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their income.

**Table 5**

**Impact of Loss of Income –  
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food by Annual Household Income, 2003 to 2010**

<b>Annual Household Income</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Less than \$25,000								
<i>Immediately</i>	30%	29%	29%	34%	29%	43%	29%	36%
<i>0-3 months</i>	53%	57%	60%	61%	60%	61%	55%	68%
\$25,000 to \$49,999								
<i>Immediately</i>	16%	17%	26%	26%	26%	26%	28%	21%
<i>0-3 months</i>	50%	46%	54%	53%	53%	54%	52%	54%
\$50,000 to \$74,999								
<i>Immediately</i>	10%	10%	16%	16%	18%	10%	11%	10%
<i>0-3 months</i>	33%	33%	36%	46%	47%	42%	40%	34%
\$75,000 or more								
<i>Immediately</i>	7%	4%	9%	5%	9%	11%	8%	6%
<i>0-3 months</i>	19%	15%	20%	20%	28%	28%	20%	24%

More than one-half (54 percent) of residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 are concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months, as provided in Table 6. This percentage represents a 4 percent increase from 2009 (52 percent) and a 25 percent decrease from 2008 (72 percent), the earliest data available. Among New York City residents concerned about needing food assistance in the next 12 months with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000, 31 percent have never received food assistance in the past. This percentage represents an 11 percent decrease from 2009 (35 percent) and a 31 percent decrease from 2008 (45 percent).

**Table 6**

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance –  
by Annual Household Income Less than \$25,000 (2008 to 2010)<sup>29</sup>**

<b>Annual Household Income Less than \$25,000</b>	2008	2009	2010
Concerned about Needing Food Assistance in Next 12 Months	72%	52%	54%
Among <i>Concerned</i> , Never Received Food Assistance Previously	45%	35%	31%

As shown in Table 7, approximately one-half (45 percent) of residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 reduced the quality of their food, compared to 34 percent of residents with household incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,000, 28 percent of residents with household incomes between \$50,000 and \$74,999, and 13 percent of residents with household incomes of \$75,000 or more. Likewise, more than two out of five (44 percent) residents with household incomes of less than \$25,000 annually reduced their food intake, compared to 32 percent of residents with household incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,000, 29 percent of residents with household incomes between \$50,000 and \$74,999 and 14 percent of residents with household incomes of \$75,000 or more.

<sup>29</sup> This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

Table 7

**Financial Coping Mechanisms During the Recession –  
By Annual Household Income<sup>30</sup>**

<b>Annual Household Income</b>	<b>2010</b>
Reduced Quality of Food	
Less than \$25,000	45%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	34%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	28%
\$75,000 or more	13%
Reduced Food Intake	
Less than \$25,000	44%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	32%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	29%
\$75,000 or more	14%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	
Less than \$25,000	43%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	34%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	16%
\$75,000 or more	3%
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	
Less than \$25,000	40%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	30%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	13%
\$75,000 or more	7%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	
Less than \$25,000	40%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	28%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	15%
\$75,000 or more	4%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	
Less than \$25,000	40%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	27%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	22%
\$75,000 or more	5%
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	
Less than \$25,000	31%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	36%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	15%
\$75,000 or more	10%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	
Less than \$25,000	22%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	18%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	7%
\$75,000 or more	4%
Rented out a Space in Home	
Less than \$25,000	11%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	13%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	11%
\$75,000 or more	7%

<sup>30</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.



As provided in Table 8, approximately three out of five (57 percent) residents with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now, compared to 59 percent of residents with household incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,000, 65 percent of residents with household incomes between \$50,000 and \$74,999, and 59 percent of residents with household incomes of \$75,000 or more.

**Table 8**

**Predictions about Financial Situation – By Annual Household Income, 2010<sup>31</sup>**

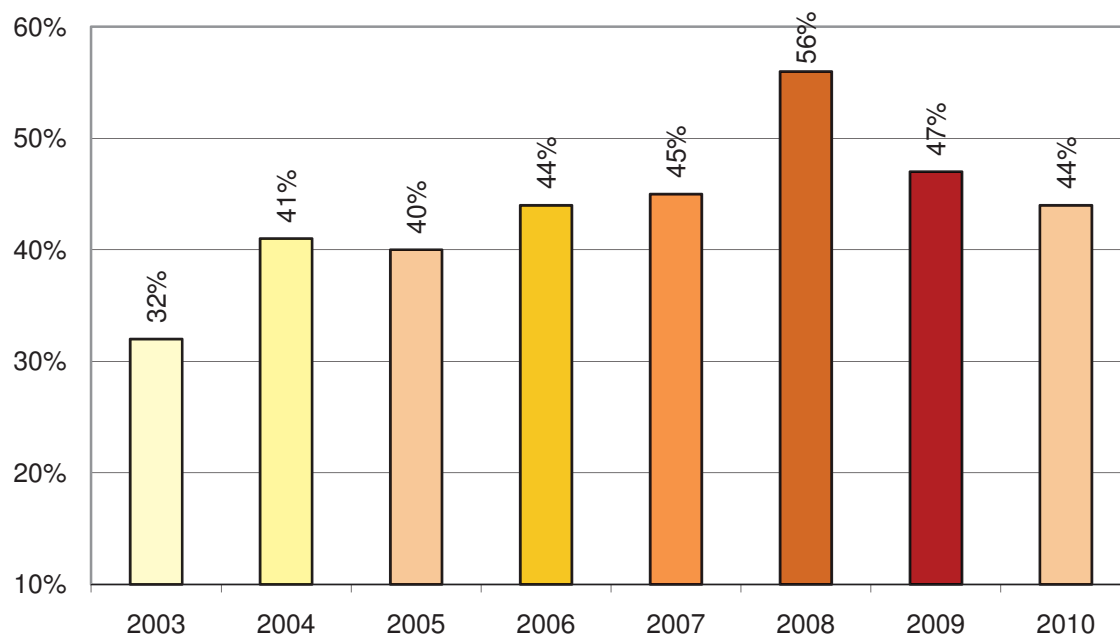
Annual Household Income	2010
Financial Situation Will Be Same Or Worse One Year From Now	
Less than \$25,000	57%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	59%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	65%
\$75,000 or more	59%

## ANALYSIS OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

More than two out of five (44 percent) New York City households with children experienced difficulty affording needed food for themselves and their families throughout 2010, as illustrated in Figure 3. This represents a 6 percent decrease from 2009 (47 percent) and a 38 percent increase from 2003 (32 percent).

**Figure 3**

**Difficulty Affording Food – By Households with Children, 2003 to 2010**



<sup>31</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

More than three out of four (76 percent) households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 experienced difficulty affording food for themselves and their families throughout 2010, as shown in Table 9. This represents a 6 percent increase from 2009 (72 percent) and a 31 percent increase from 2003 (58 percent).

**Table 9**

**Difficulty Affording Food –  
By Households with Children with Annual Income Less than \$25,000 (2003 to 2010)**

<b>Households with Children with Annual Income Less than \$25,000</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	58%	71%	56%	69%	68%	77%	72%	76%

As provided in Table 10, one-quarter (25 percent) of New York City households with children would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income in 2010. This represents a 39 percent increase from 2009 (18 percent) and a 25 percent increase from 2003 (20 percent). Additionally, more than one-half (52 percent) of households with children would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their household income in 2010, a 21 percent increase from 2009 (43 percent) and a 13 percent increase from 2003 (46 percent).

**Table 10**

**Impact of Loss of Income –  
NYC Households with Children Not Able to Afford Food, 2003 to 2010**

<b>Households with Children</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Immediately	20%	20%	25%	27%	22%	25%	18%	25%
0-3 months	46%	48%	52%	53%	50%	50%	43%	52%

As provided in Table 11, two out of five (40 percent) New York City households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income in 2010. This represents a 29 percent increase from 2009 (31 percent) and is consistent with 2003 (40 percent). Additionally, more than four out five (83 percent) households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their household income in 2010. This represents a 38 percent increase from 2009 (60 percent) and a 24 percent increase from 2003 (67 percent).

**Table 11**

**Impact of Loss of Income –  
NYC Households with Children with Annual Income Less than \$25,000  
Not Able to Afford Food, 2003 to 2010**

<b>Households with Children with Annual Income Less than \$25,000</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Immediately	40%	32%	35%	41%	32%	46%	31%	40%
0-3 months	67%	66%	63%	70%	69%	68%	60%	83%

More than one-third (36 percent) of households with children are concerned about needing food assistance such as food stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, as provided in Table 12. This percentage of concerned households represents a 3 percent increase from 2009 (35 percent) and a 23 percent decrease from 2008 (47 percent), the earliest data available.

**Table 12**

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Households with Children, 2008 to 2010<sup>32</sup>**

Households with Children	2008	2009	2010
	47%	35%	36%

More than three out of five (62 percent) of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 are concerned about needing food assistance such as food stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, as provided in Table 13. This percentage represents a 3 percent decrease from 2009 (64 percent) and a 21 percent decrease from 2008 (78 percent), the earliest data available.

**Table 13**

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance –  
By Households with Children with Annual Income Less than \$25,000 (2008 to 2010)<sup>33</sup>**

Households with Children with Annual Income Less than \$25,000	2008	2009	2010
	78%	64%	62%

<sup>32</sup> This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

<sup>33</sup> This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.



As shown in Table 14, approximately one out of three (30 percent) households with children reduced their food intake during the recession to get by financially, consistent with 30 percent of households with children that reduced the quality of their food.

**Table 14**

**Financial Coping Mechanisms During the Recession –  
By Households with Children<sup>34</sup>**

<b>Households with Children</b>	<b>2010</b>
Reduced Food Intake	30%
Reduced Quality of Food	30%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	30%
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	28%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	27%
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	26%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	22%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	13%
Rented out a Space in Home	13%

As shown in Table 15, more than one-half (52 percent) of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 reduced their food intake during the recession to get by financially, similar to 51 percent of households with children that reduced the quality of their food.

**Table 15**

**Financial Coping Mechanisms During the Recession –  
By Households with Children with Annual Income Less than \$25,000<sup>35</sup>**

<b>Households with Children with Annual Income Less than \$25,000</b>	<b>2010</b>
Reduced Food Intake	52%
Reduced Quality of Food	51%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	48%
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	38%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	53%
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	43%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	43%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	28%
Rented out a Space in Home	13%

More than one-half (55 percent) of households with children predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now, as provided in Table 16.

**Table 16**

**Predictions about Financial Situation – By Households with Children, 2010<sup>36</sup>**

<b>Households with Children</b>	<b>2010</b>
Financial Situation Will Be Same Or Worse One Year From Now	55%

<sup>34</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.

<sup>35</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.

<sup>36</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.



More than one-half (55 percent) of households with children with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now, as provided in Table 17.

**Table 17**

**Predictions about Financial Situation –  
By Households with Children with Annual Income Less than \$25,000 (2010)<sup>37</sup>**

<b>Households with Children with Annual Income Less than \$25,000</b>	<b>2010</b>
Financial Situation Will Be Same Or Worse One Year From Now	55%

**ANALYSIS BY EMPLOYMENT<sup>38</sup>**

As shown in Table 18, more than one-half (54 percent) of unemployed New York City residents experienced difficulty affording needed food throughout 2010, compared to 33 percent of employed residents.

**Table 18**

**Difficulty Affording Food – By Employment, 2009 to 2010**

<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Unemployed	58%	54%
Employed	37%	33%

In 2010, more than one out of six (18 percent) unemployed New York City residents would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income and 55 percent would not be able to afford food within three months. Similarly, 17 percent of employed residents would not be able to afford food immediately after losing household income and 44 percent would not be able to afford food within three months, as provided in Table 19.

**Table 19**

**Impact of Loss of Income –  
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food by Employment, 2009 to 2010**

<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Unemployed		
<i>Immediately</i>	17%	18%
<i>0-3 months</i>	52%	55%
Employed		
<i>Immediately</i>	19%	17%
<i>0-3 months</i>	39%	44%

<sup>37</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

<sup>38</sup> Employment status was introduced into the 2009 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

Approximately one-half (50 percent) of unemployed New York City residents are concerned about needing food assistance such as food stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, as provided in Table 20. This percentage of concerned residents represents a 4 percent decrease from 2009 (52 percent), the earliest data available. One out of four (25 percent) employed residents are concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months. This percentage represents a 7 percent decrease from 2009 (27 percent).

**Table 20**

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Employment, 2009 to 2010**

<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Unemployed	52%	50%
Employed	27%	25%

Approximately one-half (49 percent) of unemployed residents reduced their food intake during the recession to get by financially, compared to 28 percent of employed residents. Likewise, 44 percent of unemployed residents chose between paying for food and transportation, compared to 21 percent of employed residents, as provided in Table 21.

**Table 21**

**Financial Coping Mechanisms During the Recession – By Employment<sup>39</sup>**

<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>2010</b>
Reduced Food Intake	
Unemployed	49%
Employed	28%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	
Unemployed	44%
Employed	21%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	
Unemployed	42%
Employed	20%
Reduced Quality of Food	
Unemployed	41%
Employed	28%
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	
Unemployed	39%
Employed	21%
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	
Unemployed	38%
Employed	21%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	
Unemployed	35%
Employed	17%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	
Unemployed	28%
Employed	11%
Rented out a Space in Home	
Unemployed	18%
Employed	9%

<sup>39</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.



Approximately one-half (45 percent) of unemployed residents predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now, compared to 58 percent of employed residents, as provided in Table 22.

**Table 22**

**Predictions about Financial Situation – By Employment, 2010<sup>40</sup>**

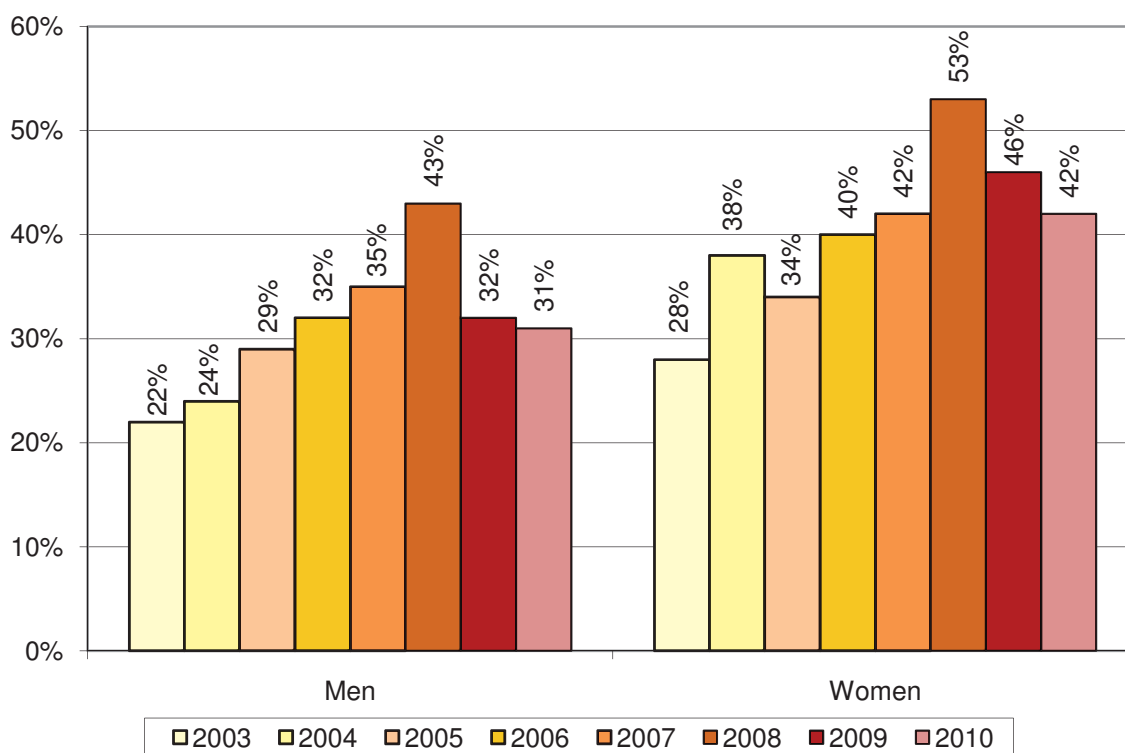
<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>2010</b>
Financial Situation Will Be Same Or Worse One Year From Now	
Unemployed	45%
Employed	58%

**ANALYSIS BY GENDER**

Women are consistently more vulnerable to food poverty than men, and this gender disparity is widening based on increases in difficulty affording food over time. This disparity has increased since 2003, as the percentage of women experiencing difficulty affording food has risen by 50 percent from 2003 (28 percent) to 2010 (42 percent). For men, the percentage experiencing difficulty has risen by 41 percent from 2003 (22 percent) to 2010 (31 percent).

**Figure 4**

**Difficulty Affording Food – By Gender, 2003 to 2010**



<sup>40</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

A higher percentage of women than men have little or no savings to fall back on in the event of a crisis. More than one out of five (22 percent) women would not be able to buy food for themselves and their families immediately after losing their household income, compared to 15 percent of men, as shown in Table 23. Since 2009, the percentage of women unable to buy food immediately after losing their household income increased by 22 percent, while the percentage of men unable to buy food immediately after losing their household income decreased by 17 percent. Additionally, 46 percent of women would not be able to afford food within three months of losing their household income in 2010, compared to 43 percent of men. Since 2009, the percentage of women unable to buy food within three months of losing their household income increased by 10 percent, while the percentage of men unable to buy food within three months of losing their household income decreased by 16 percent.

**Table 23**

**Impact of Loss of Income –  
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food by Gender, 2003 to 2010**

<b>Gender</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Women</b>								
<i>Immediately</i>	20%	20%	23%	26%	24%	24%	18%	22%
<i>0-3 months</i>	42%	46%	47%	51%	49%	45%	42%	46%
<b>Men</b>								
<i>Immediately</i>	15%	13%	17%	16%	16%	21%	18%	15%
<i>0-3 months</i>	39%	31%	38%	39%	42%	44%	37%	43%

More than one-third (36 percent) of women in New York City are concerned about needing food assistance such as food stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, as provided in Table 24. This percentage of concerned women is consistent with 2009 (36 percent) and represents a 20 percent decrease from 2008 (45 percent), the earliest data available. More than one out of four (27 percent) men are concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months. This percentage represents a 4 percent increase from 2009 (26 percent) and a 31 percent decrease from 2008 (39 percent).

**Table 24**

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Gender, 2008 to 2010<sup>41</sup>**

<b>Gender</b>	2008	2009	2010
<b>Women</b>	45%	36%	36%
<b>Men</b>	39%	26%	27%

<sup>41</sup> This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

More than one out of three (36 percent) of women in New York City reduced their food intake during the recession to get by financially, compared to 25 percent of men. Similarly, 33 percent of women reduced the quality of their food, compared to 25 percent of men, as provided in Table 25.

**Table 25**  
**Financial Coping Mechanisms During the Recession – By Gender<sup>42</sup>**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>2010</b>
Reduced Food Intake	
Women	36%
Men	25%
Reduced Quality of Food	
Women	33%
Men	25%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	
Women	28%
Men	21%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	
Women	26%
Men	20%
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	
Women	25%
Men	20%
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	
Women	24%
Men	20%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	
Women	22%
Men	20%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	
Women	11%
Men	14%
Rented out a Space in Home	
Women	8%
Men	12%

Approximately two out of three (63 percent) women predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now, compared to 56 percent of men, as provided in Table 26.

**Table 26**  
**Predictions about Financial Future – By Gender, 2010<sup>43</sup>**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>2010</b>
Financial Situation Will Be Same Or Worse One Year From Now	
Women	63%
Men	56%

<sup>42</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.

<sup>43</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

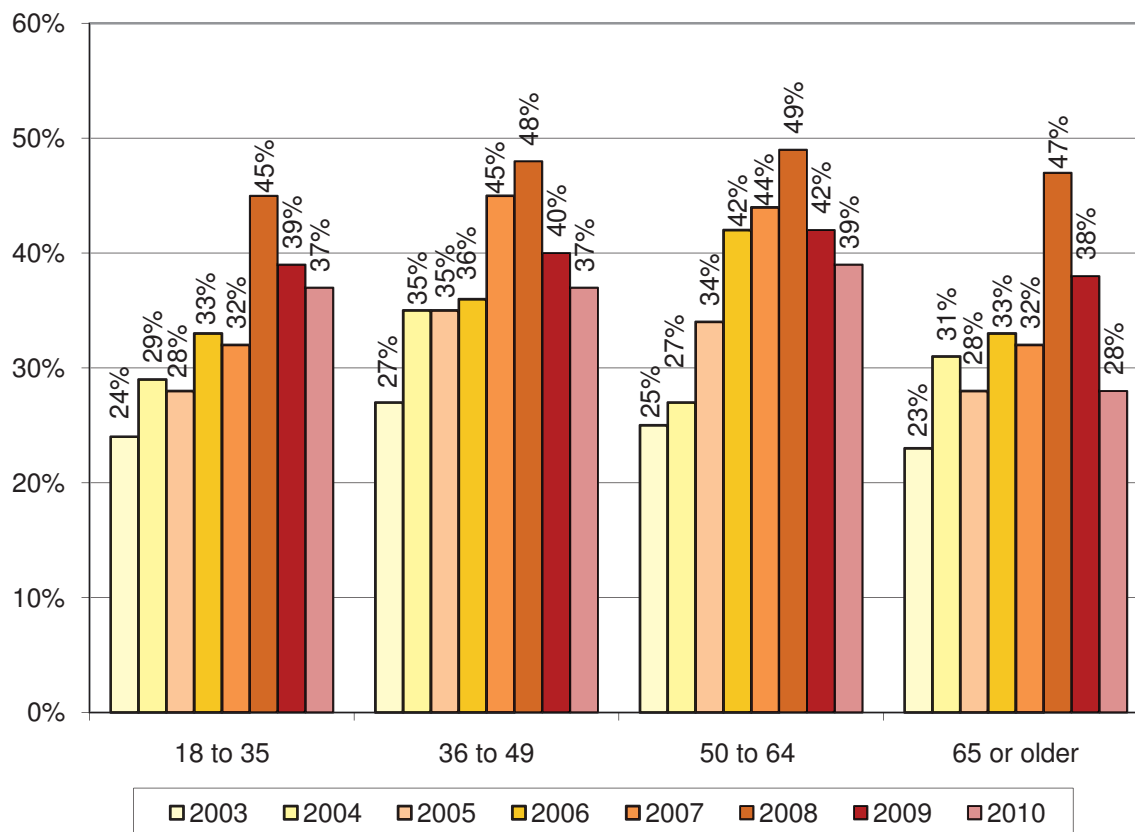


## ANALYSIS BY AGE

As shown in Figure 5, New York City residents ages 50 to 64 experienced the most difficulty affording needed food. Among residents ages 50 to 64, 39 percent experienced difficulty affording food, a 7 percent decrease from 2009 (42 percent) but a 56 percent increase since 2003 (25 percent). Similarly, among residents ages 18 to 35, 37 percent experienced difficulty affording food, a 5 percent decrease from the previous year (39 percent) yet a 54 percent increase from 2003 (24 percent). For residents ages 65 and older, more than one out of four (28 percent) experienced difficulty affording food, a decrease from 2009 (38 percent) and a 22 percent increase since 2003 (23 percent).

**Figure 5**

### Difficulty Affording Food – By Age Category, 2003 to 2010



New York City residents ages 18 to 35 have the least savings in the event of a crisis among all the age categories. As provided in Table 27, one-quarter (25 percent) of residents ages 18 to 35 would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income in 2010. This represents a 4 percent increase from 2009 (24 percent) and a 39 percent increase from 2003 (18 percent).

**Table 27**

**Impact of Loss of Income –  
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food by Age Category, 2003 to 2010**

<b>Age Category</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
18 to 35								
<i>Immediately</i>	18%	17%	25%	22%	19%	23%	24%	25%
<i>0-3 months</i>	46%	40%	56%	58%	52%	50%	50%	56%
36 to 49								
<i>Immediately</i>	16%	17%	19%	26%	24%	23%	15%	17%
<i>0-3 months</i>	39%	45%	41%	47%	46%	48%	36%	47%
50 to 64								
<i>Immediately</i>	14%	15%	21%	22%	21%	21%	15%	15%
<i>0-3 months</i>	40%	38%	42%	44%	45%	42%	37%	37%
65 or older								
<i>Immediately</i>	19%	18%	11%	12%	17%	23%	15%	13%
<i>0-3 months</i>	31%	29%	27%	27%	31%	36%	29%	28%

More than one-third (36 percent) of residents ages 18 to 35 are concerned about needing food assistance such as food stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, as provided in Table 28. This percentage of concerned residents is consistent with 2009 (36 percent) and represents a 10 percent decrease from 2008 (40 percent), the earliest data available.

**Table 28**

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Age Category, 2008 to 2010<sup>44</sup>**

<b>Age Category</b>	2008	2009	2010
18 to 35	40%	36%	36%
36 to 49	39%	33%	29%
50 to 64	48%	31%	32%
65 and older	46%	28%	26%

As shown in Table 29, more than one out of three (35 percent) residents ages 18 to 35 received financial assistance from family and/or friends during the recession to get by financially, compared to 19 percent of residents ages 36 to 49, 17 percent of residents ages 50 to 64 and 11 percent of residents ages 65 and older. In terms of food, 32 percent of residents ages 18 to 35 reduced the quality of their food, compared to 33 percent of residents ages 36 to 49, 31 percent of residents ages 50 to 64, and 19 percent of residents ages 65 and older.

<sup>44</sup> This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

**Table 29****Financial Coping Mechanisms During the Recession – By Age Category<sup>45</sup>**

<b>Age Category</b>	<b>2010</b>
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	
18 to 35	35%
36 to 49	19%
50 to 64	17%
65 and older	11%
Reduced Food Intake	
18 to 35	32%
36 to 49	33%
50 to 64	31%
65 and older	19%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	
18 to 35	32%
36 to 49	22%
50 to 64	20%
65 and older	16%
Reduced Quality of Food	
18 to 35	29%
36 to 49	32%
50 to 64	32%
65 and older	22%
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	
18 to 35	28%
36 to 49	25%
50 to 64	20%
65 and older	15%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	
18 to 35	27%
36 to 49	8%
50 to 64	4%
65 and older	4%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	
18 to 35	25%
36 to 49	26%
50 to 64	22%
65 and older	16%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	
18 to 35	23%
36 to 49	22%
50 to 64	23%
65 and older	16%
Rented out a Space in Home	
18 to 35	13%
36 to 49	12%
50 to 64	5%
65 and older	7%

<sup>45</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.



As provided in Table 30, more than two out of five (42 percent) residents ages 18 to 35 predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now, compared to 55 percent of residents ages 36 to 49, 72 percent of residents ages 50 to 64, and 84 percent of residents ages 65 and older.

**Table 30**

**Predictions about Financial Situation – By Age Category, 2010<sup>46</sup>**

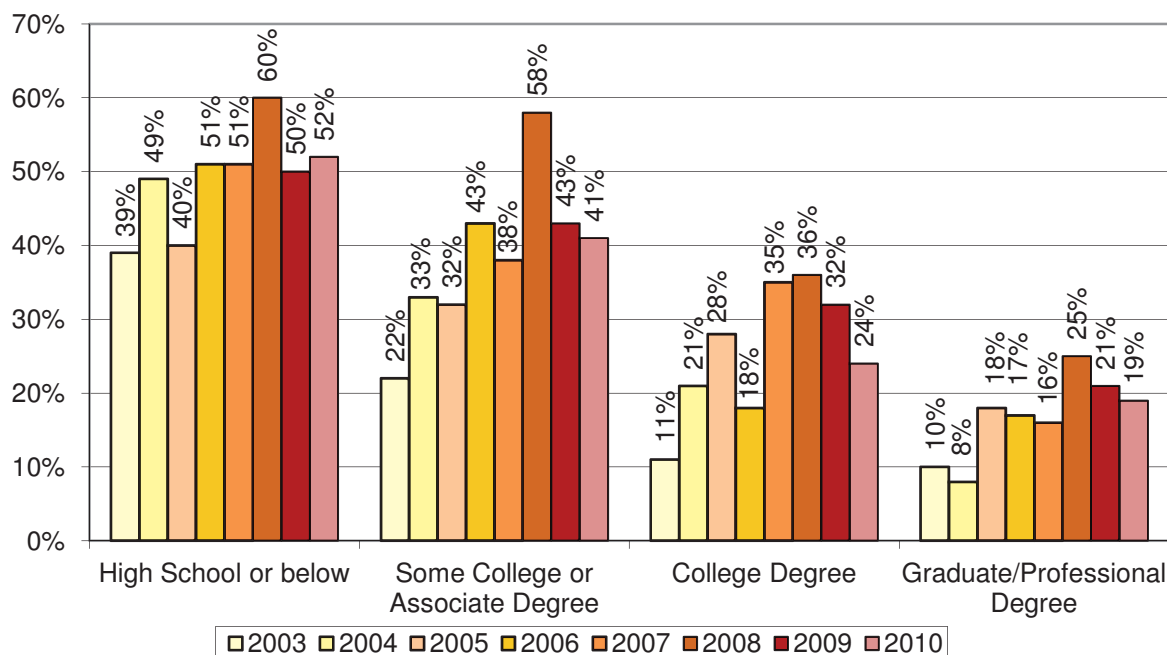
Age Category	2010
Financial Situation Will Be Same Or Worse One Year From Now	
18 to 35	42%
36 to 49	55%
50 to 64	72%
65 and older	84%

**ANALYSIS BY EDUCATION LEVEL**

New York City residents with a high school degree or less have the highest percentage of difficulty affording food, yet many experienced difficulty at higher education levels as well. As illustrated in Figure 6, more than one-half (52 percent) of city residents with a high school education or below experienced difficulty affording food throughout 2010, an increase of 4 percent from 2009 (50 percent) and an increase of 33 percent since 2003 (39 percent). Among residents with a graduate/professional degree, almost one-fifth (19 percent) had difficulty affording food throughout 2010, down from 21 percent in 2009, yet almost double the percentage in 2003 (10 percent).

**Figure 6**

**Difficulty Affording Food – By Education Level, 2003 to 2010**



<sup>46</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

As provided in Table 31, approximately one-quarter (24 percent) of New York City residents with a high school degree or below would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income in 2010. Additionally, 59 percent of residents with a high school degree or below would not be able to afford food within three months. More than one out of six (17 percent) residents with a college degree as their highest level of education would not be able to afford food immediately, more than double the percent in 2009 (8 percent) and up 55 percent from 2003 (11 percent). Additionally, 37 percent of residents with a college degree as their highest level of education would not be able to afford food within three months in 2010.

**Table 31**

**Impact of Loss of Income –  
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food by Education Level, 2003 to 2010**

<b>Education Level</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
High School Degree or Below								
<i>Immediately</i>	21%	27%	26%	25%	26%	33%	24%	24%
<i>0-3 months</i>	48%	52%	54%	51%	54%	54%	46%	59%
Some College or Associate								
<i>Immediately</i>	19%	17%	19%	25%	26%	25%	26%	22%
<i>0-3 months</i>	42%	42%	46%	54%	52%	52%	55%	48%
College Degree								
<i>Immediately</i>	11%	10%	19%	18%	12%	15%	8%	17%
<i>0-3 months</i>	33%	30%	38%	38%	34%	40%	33%	37%
Graduate/Professional Degree								
<i>Immediately</i>	12%	8%	9%	10%	10%	11%	7%	7%
<i>0-3 months</i>	30%	22%	27%	28%	32%	29%	17%	25%

More than two out of five (44 percent) residents with a high school degree are concerned about needing food assistance such as food stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, as provided in Table 32. This percentage of concerned residents represents a 5 percent increase from 2009 (42 percent) and a 25 percent decrease from 2008 (59 percent), the earliest data available. Approximately two out of five (39 percent) residents with some college or an associate's degree are concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months. This percentage represents a 7 percent decrease from 2009 (42 percent) and a 13 percent decrease from 2008 (45 percent).

**Table 32**

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Education Level, 2008 to 2010<sup>47</sup>**

<b>Educational Level</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
High School Degree or Below	59%	42%	44%
Some College or Associate's Degree	45%	42%	39%
College Degree	33%	18%	23%
Graduate/Professional Degree	17%	15%	12%

<sup>47</sup> This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

As shown in Table 33, approximately two out of five (39 percent) residents with a high school degree or below chose between paying for food and rent/mortgage, compared to 23 percent of residents with some college or an associate's degree, 12 percent of residents with a college degree and 7 percent of residents with a graduate/professional degree. Similarly, 38 percent of residents with a high school degree or below reduced their food intake, compared to 39 percent of residents with some college or an associate's degree, 23 percent of residents with a college degree and 15 percent of residents with a graduate/professional degree.

**Table 33**  
**Financial Coping Mechanisms During the Recession – By Education Level<sup>48</sup>**

<b>Education Level</b>	<b>2010</b>
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	
High School Degree or Below	39%
Some College or Associate's Degree	23%
College Degree	12%
Graduate/Professional Degree	7%
Reduced Food Intake	
High School Degree or Below	38%
Some College or Associate's Degree	39%
College Degree	23%
Graduate/Professional Degree	15%
Reduced Quality of Food	
High School Degree or Below	38%
Some College or Associate's Degree	34%
College Degree	19%
Graduate/Professional Degree	19%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	
High School Degree or Below	38%
Some College or Associate's Degree	25%
College Degree	18%
Graduate/Professional Degree	8%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	
High School Degree or Below	34%
Some College or Associate's Degree	24%
College Degree	16%
Graduate/Professional Degree	11%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	
High School Degree or Below	33%
Some College or Associate's Degree	19%
College Degree	17%
Graduate/Professional Degree	9%
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	
High School Degree or Below	25%
Some College or Associate's Degree	27%
College Degree	14%
Graduate/Professional Degree	18%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	
High School Degree or Below	18%
Some College or Associate's Degree	7%
College Degree	11%
Graduate/Professional Degree	8%
Rented out a Space in Home	
High School Degree or Below	14%
Some College or Associate's Degree	9%
College Degree	8%

<sup>48</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.



As provided in Table 34, approximately three out of five (59 percent) of residents with a high school degree or below predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now, compared to 50 percent of residents with some college or an associate's degree, 62 percent of residents with a college degree as their highest education level, and 68 percent of residents with a graduate/professional degree.

**Table 34**

**Predictions about Financial Future – By Education Level, 2010<sup>49</sup>**

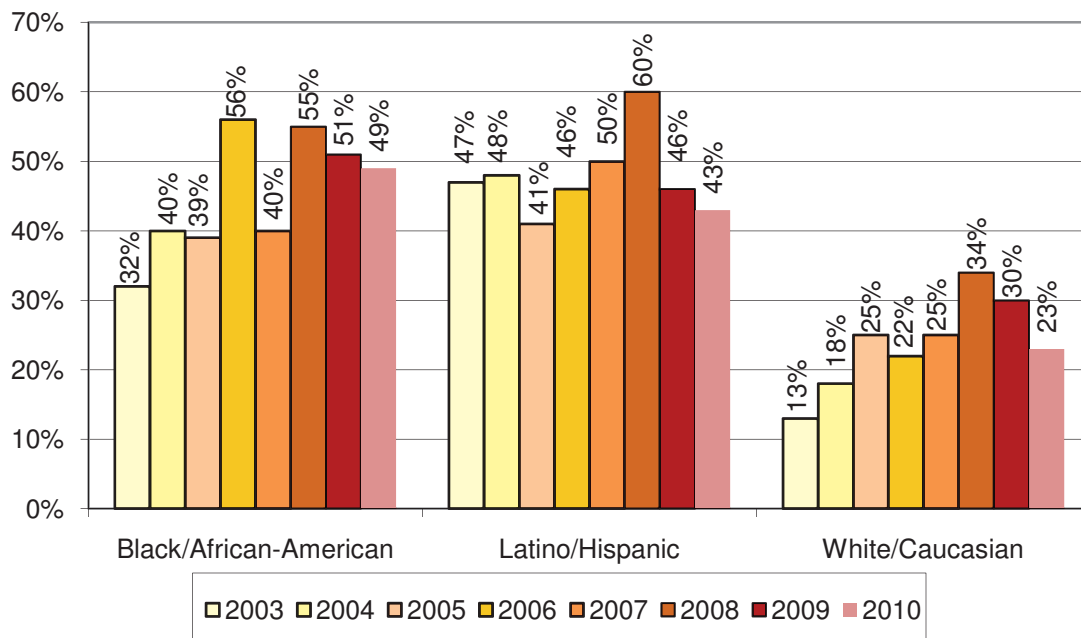
Education Level	2010
Financial Situation Will Be Same Or Worse One Year From Now	
High School Degree or Below	59%
Some College or Associate's Degree	50%
College Degree	62%
Graduate/Professional Degree	68%

**ANALYSIS BY RACIAL / ETHNIC IDENTITY**

Throughout New York City, Black/African-American and Latino/Hispanic residents have the most difficulty affording food. As illustrated in Figure 7, almost one-half (49 percent) of Black/African-American residents experienced difficulty affording needed food throughout 2010, down from 51 percent in 2009, yet up 53 percent since 2003 (32 percent). Among Latino/Hispanic residents, approximately two out of five (43 percent) experienced difficulty affording needed food throughout 2010. This represents a 7 percent decrease since 2009 (46 percent) and a 9 percent decrease since 2003 (47 percent).

**Figure 7**

**Difficulty Affording Food – Racial/Ethnic Identity, 2003 to 2010**



<sup>49</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

As shown in Table 35, more than one-quarter (27 percent) of Black/African-American residents would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income in 2010. This percentage represents an increase of 17 percent from 2009 (23 percent) and 42 percent from 2003 (19 percent). Additionally, 57 percent of Black/African-American residents would not be able to afford food within three months, up 16 percent from 2009 (49 percent) and 21 percent from 2003 (47 percent). One out of five (20 percent) Latino/Hispanic residents would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income, down 13 percent from 2009 (23 percent) and consistent with 2003 (20 percent). Additionally, 51 percent of Latino/Hispanic residents would not be able to afford food within three months, decreasing 6 percent since 2009 (54 percent) and 4 percent since 2003 (53 percent).

**Table 35**

**Impact of Loss of Income –  
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food by Racial/Ethnic Identity, 2003 to 2010**

<b>Race/Ethnic Identity</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Black/African-American								
<i>Immediately</i>	19%	21%	28%	28%	22%	31%	23%	27%
<i>0-3 months</i>	47%	47%	54%	59%	51%	54%	49%	57%
Latino/Hispanic								
<i>Immediately</i>	20%	25%	27%	29%	26%	25%	23%	20%
<i>0-3 months</i>	53%	52%	57%	56%	54%	50%	54%	51%
White/Caucasian								
<i>Immediately</i>	14%	11%	14%	14%	13%	14%	13%	13%
<i>0-3 months</i>	30%	27%	32%	31%	36%	34%	27%	30%

More than two out of five (45 percent) of Black/African-American residents are concerned about needing food assistance such as food stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, as provided in Table 36. This percentage of concerned residents represents a 10 percent increase from 2009 (41 percent) and a 20 percent decrease from 2008 (56 percent), the earliest data available. Approximately two out of five (38 percent) Latino/Hispanic residents are concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months. This percentage represents a 14 percent decrease from 2009 (44 percent) and a 32 percent decrease from 2008 (56 percent). More than one out of six (18 percent) White/Caucasian residents are concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months. This percentage is consistent with 2009 (18 percent) and represents a 22 percent decrease from 2009 (23 percent).

**Table 36**

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Racial/Ethnic Identity, 2008 to 2010<sup>50</sup>**

<b>Race/Ethnic Identity</b>	2008	2009	2010
Black/African-American	56%	41%	45%
Latino/Hispanic	56%	44%	38%
White/Caucasian	23%	18%	18%

<sup>50</sup> This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

As shown in Table 37, approximately two out of five (37 percent) Black/African-American residents reduced their food intake during the recession to get by financially, compared to 36 percent of Latino/Hispanic residents, and 19 percent of White/Caucasian residents. Similarly, 35 percent of Black/African-American residents reduced the quality of their food, compared to 36 percent of Latino/Hispanic residents, and 20 percent of White/Caucasian residents.

**Table 37**

**Financial Coping Mechanisms During the Recession –  
By Racial/Ethnic Identity<sup>51</sup>**

<b>Race/Ethnic Identity</b>	<b>2010</b>
Reduced Food Intake	
Black/African-American	37%
Latino/Hispanic	36%
White/Caucasian	19%
Reduced Quality of Food	
Black/African-American	35%
Latino/Hispanic	36%
White/Caucasian	20%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	
Black/African-American	31%
Latino/Hispanic	36%
White/Caucasian	10%
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	
Black/African-American	30%
Latino/Hispanic	33%
White/Caucasian	12%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	
Black/African-American	29%
Latino/Hispanic	37%
White/Caucasian	9%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	
Black/African-American	28%
Latino/Hispanic	26%
White/Caucasian	11%
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	
Black/African-American	27%
Latino/Hispanic	19%
White/Caucasian	18%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	
Black/African-American	12%
Latino/Hispanic	19%
White/Caucasian	8%
Rented out a Space in Home	
Black/African-American	8%
Latino/Hispanic	14%
White/Caucasian	8%

<sup>51</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.



As shown in Table 38, approximately one-half (49 percent) of Black/African-American residents predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now, compared to 55 percent of Latino/Hispanic residents and 71 percent of White/Caucasian residents.

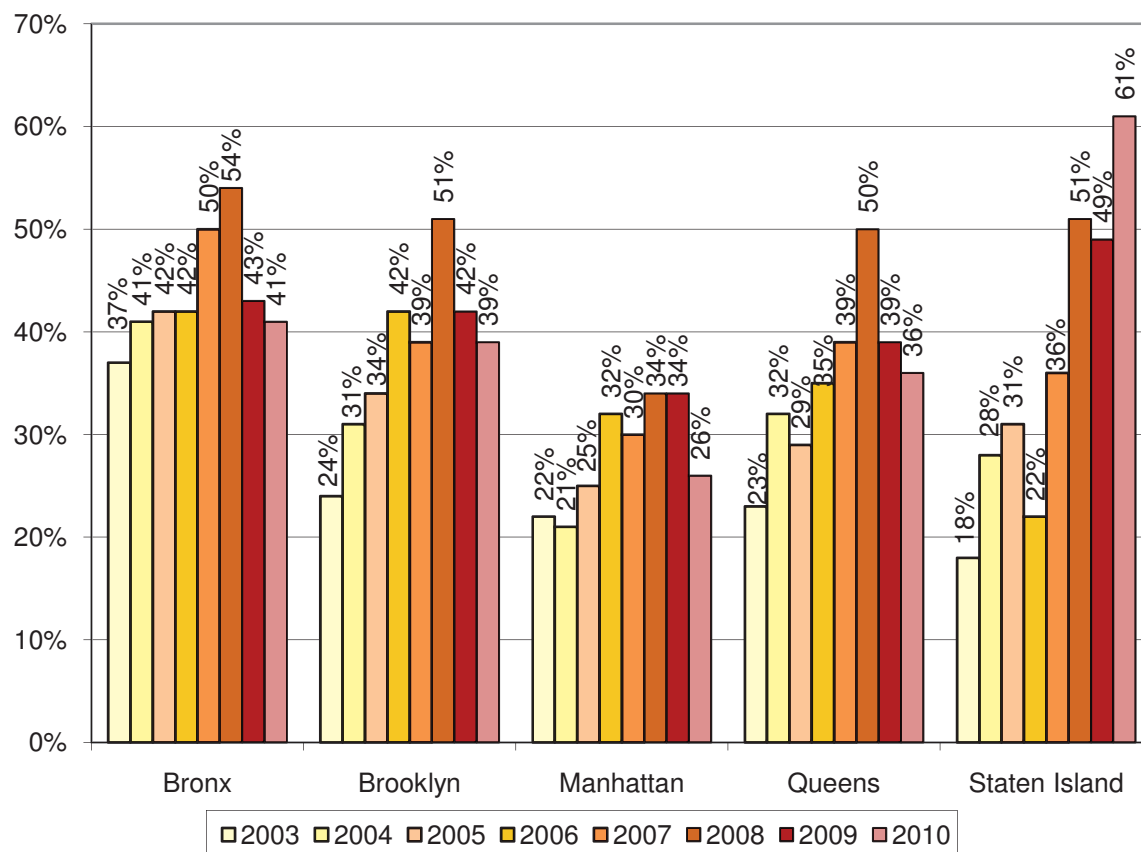
**Table 38**  
**Predictions about Financial Situation – By Racial/Ethnic Identity, 2010<sup>52</sup>**

Race/Ethnic Identity	2010
Financial Situation Will Be Same Or Worse One Year From Now	
Black/African-American	49%
Latino/Hispanic	55%
White/Caucasian	71%

### ANALYSIS BY BOROUGH

As illustrated in Figure 8, 61 percent of Staten Island residents experienced difficulty affording needed food throughout 2010, followed by the Bronx (41 percent), Brooklyn (39 percent), Queens (36 percent) and Manhattan (26 percent).

**Figure 8**  
**Difficulty Affording Food – By Borough, 2003 to 2010**



<sup>52</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.



Staten Island has the highest percentage of residents who would not be able to afford food immediately after or within three months of losing household income. As shown in Table 39, almost one out of three (30 percent) Staten Island residents would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income, followed by the Bronx (23 percent), Brooklyn (20 percent), Manhattan (18 percent) and Queens (13 percent). In addition, 61 percent of Staten Island residents would not be able to afford food within three months, followed by Brooklyn (48 percent), Queens (45 percent), the Bronx (43 percent) and Manhattan (35 percent).

**Table 39**

**Impact of Loss of Income –  
NYC Residents Not Able to Afford Food Immediately by Borough, 2003 to 2010**

<b>Borough</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Bronx								
<i>Immediately</i>	20%	27%	28%	28%	29%	30%	23%	23%
<i>0-3 months</i>	48%	52%	52%	55%	56%	50%	44%	43%
Brooklyn								
<i>Immediately</i>	17%	17%	21%	24%	20%	21%	19%	20%
<i>0-3 months</i>	39%	36%	47%	50%	48%	46%	41%	48%
Manhattan								
<i>Immediately</i>	17%	16%	16%	14%	11%	18%	13%	18%
<i>0-3 months</i>	38%	36%	31%	32%	33%	37%	34%	35%
Queens								
<i>Immediately</i>	15%	13%	21%	23%	19%	25%	19%	13%
<i>0-3 months</i>	38%	39%	46%	46%	41%	45%	39%	45%
Staten Island								
<i>Immediately</i>	21%	6%	13%	10%	37%	12%	13%	30%
<i>0-3 months</i>	38%	30%	33%	44%	71%	46%	40%	61%

The Bronx has the greatest concern about needing food assistance such as stamps (SNAP) or emergency food (soup kitchens and food pantries) within the next 12 months, as provided in Table 40. Approximately two out of five (39 percent) Bronx residents are concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months, followed by Brooklyn (36 percent), Staten Island (31 percent), Queens (28 percent) and Manhattan (25 percent).

**Table 40**

**Concern about Needing Food Assistance – By Borough, 2008 to 2010<sup>53</sup>**

<b>Borough</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Bronx	53%	32%	39%
Brooklyn	46%	33%	36%
Manhattan	31%	29%	25%
Queens	44%	32%	28%
Staten Island	35%	21%	31%

As shown in Table 41, approximately two out of five (39 percent) Bronx residents reduced their food intake during the recession to get by financially, compared to 32 percent of Brooklyn residents, 22 percent of Manhattan residents, 32 percent of Queens residents and 25 percent of Staten Island residents. More than one out of three (34 percent) Bronx residents reduced the quality of their food, compared to 28 percent of Brooklyn residents, 27 percent of Manhattan residents, 30 percent of Queens residents and 36 percent of Staten Island residents.

<sup>53</sup> This data was introduced into the 2008 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.



**Table 41****Financial Coping Mechanisms During the Recession – By Borough<sup>54</sup>**

<b>Borough</b>	<b>2010</b>
Reduced Food Intake	
Bronx	39%
Brooklyn	32%
Manhattan	22%
Queens	32%
Staten Island	25%
Reduced Quality of Food	
Bronx	34%
Brooklyn	28%
Manhattan	27%
Queens	30%
Staten Island	36%
Chose between Paying for Food and Utilities	
Bronx	28%
Brooklyn	22%
Manhattan	18%
Queens	26%
Staten Island	26%
Chose between Paying for Food and Transportation	
Bronx	27%
Brooklyn	23%
Manhattan	20%
Queens	29%
Staten Island	22%
Chose between Paying for Food and Rent/Mortgage	
Bronx	20%
Brooklyn	26%
Manhattan	18%
Queens	24%
Staten Island	28%
Chose between Paying for Food and Medicine/Medical Care	
Bronx	20%
Brooklyn	22%
Manhattan	19%
Queens	24%
Staten Island	18%
Received Financial Assistance from Family and/or Friends	
Bronx	18%
Brooklyn	19%
Manhattan	25%
Queens	26%
Staten Island	22%
Rented out a Space in Home	
Bronx	12%
Brooklyn	11%
Manhattan	8%
Queens	10%
Staten Island	9%
Moved in with Family and/or Friends	
Bronx	9%
Brooklyn	13%
Manhattan	14%
Queens	14%
Staten Island	10%

<sup>54</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available. Responses to this question reflect the time period between 2008 and 2010.

As provided in Table 42, approximately two out of three (64 percent) Bronx residents predict that their financial situation will be the same or worse one year from now, compared to 60 percent of Brooklyn residents, 52 percent of Manhattan residents, 61 percent of Queens residents and 64 percent of Staten Island residents.

**Table 42**

**Predictions about Financial Situation – By Borough, 2010<sup>55</sup>**

<b>Borough</b>	<b>2010</b>
Financial Situation Will Be Same Or Worse One Year From Now	
Bronx	64%
Brooklyn	60%
Manhattan	52%
Queens	61%
Staten Island	64%

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<sup>55</sup> This data was introduced into the 2010 poll; trend analysis from 2003 is not available.

## METHODOLOGY

### HUNGER EXPERIENCE POLL

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#### **SURVEY INSTRUMENT**

The Food Bank For New York City commissioned the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion to conduct a survey to determine residents' ability to afford food. Data were collected by phone interview, which consisted of five questions developed by the Food Bank in collaboration with Marist College.

#### **SAMPLE POPULATION**

This year, telephone interviews were conducted using random digit dialing to land lines and cell phone numbers on October 12 through 15, 2010. A total of 856 New York City residents ages 18 and older were interviewed. Interviews were administered in English and Spanish by trained interviewers from a centralized location. Up to three attempts to establish contact were made per telephone number.

#### **DATA ANALYSIS**

A final weighted data set that reflects interview responses was provided to the Food Bank by Marist College. To ensure proportionality, statistics were weighted by borough, income, age, race/ethnicity and gender population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Results are significant at the  $\pm 3.5$  percent level.

#### **STUDY LIMITATIONS**

While efforts were made to ensure sample randomness, proportionality and consistency, there are several limitations to this study.

First, as residents selected themselves to participate in the telephone survey, there is the potential for there to be a self-selection bias in the data.

Second, although the overall findings are statistically significant at the  $\pm 3.5$  percent, the margin of error increases for statistics obtained through cross-tabulation.

Finally, the interviews were conducted by Marist College Institute for Public Opinion only in English and Spanish. Because there are considerable populations of New York City residents who speak languages other than those used for the interview, a bias may have been introduced.







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